

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

The claim are amended herein.

New claims 10 and 11 are added. These new claims are somewhat similar to the amended claim 1.

Support for the amendments and new claims is found, for example, on page 9, line 25, through page 10, line 4, of the specification.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are currently pending.

II. OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

Replacement Sheets are provided herewith, in which FIGS. 1 and 2 are labeled "PRIOR ART".

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings is overcome.

III. OBJECTION TO CLAIM 8

Claim 8 is dependent from claim 6. Claim 6 is amended to now depend from claim 5.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objection is overcome.

IV. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the optical pulses output by the optical pulse source are branched to N paths and that the branched optical pulses are multiplexed so as to output optical pulses with a repetition frequency which is an integral multiple of the designated repetition frequency f_0 , wherein a time difference among the respective paths is $1/(N \cdot (f_0))$. Somewhat similar amendments are made to claim 2.

Support for the amendments is found, for example, on page 9, line 25, through page 10, line 4, of the specification.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, taken individually or in combination, discloses or suggests these features.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art rejections are overcome.

V. CONCLUSION

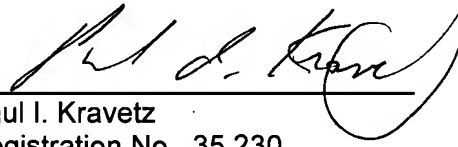
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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